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Comments: As a retired fish biologist with experience dealing with gold mines I have many concerns with this proposal. Once these areas are disturbed it becomes very difficult to control the runoff from storm events. Nearly all these old mines leach toxic sediments for decades after closing down, and the taxpayers get billed for the long term cleanup after the mining companies go bankrupt. Salmon are barely hanging on with the dams, the ocean becoming more acidic, and water temperatures increasing with climate change. Adding more stress with mining activities only increases their probability of going extinct. We should be working to clean up these old mine sites, not adding new ones.